

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. A communication device, comprising:

5 an audio input device for receiving a plurality of voice commands, wherein at least one of the plurality of voice commands is associated with an alphabetic character;

a memory for storing the plurality of voice commands; and

a control module coupled to the audio input device and the memory, wherein the control module is configured to associate the at least one of the plurality of voice commands with one  
10 of a plurality of numeric digits.

2. The communication device, as set forth in claim 1, comprising a voice recognition program utilized by the control module to translate the at least one of the plurality of voice commands into the one of the plurality of numeric digits.

15 3. The communication device, as set forth in claim 1, comprising a user interface that is coupled to the control module, wherein the user interface associates the alphabetic character to the one of the plurality of numeric digits.

20 4. The communication device, as set forth in claim 3, wherein the user interface comprises a keypad.

5. The communication device, as set forth in claim 1, comprising a transceiver module that is coupled to the control module to communicate with another device.

6. The communication device, as set forth in claim 1, comprising a speaker that is coupled to the control module to generate audio.

7. A system, comprising:

5 a vehicle;

a vehicle-based communication system disposed in the vehicle, the vehicle-based communication system comprising:

an interface module; and

10 a microphone coupled to the interface module for receiving at least one voice command, wherein the at least one voice command is one of an alphabetic character and a symbolic character; and

a communication device adapted to communicate with the interface module, the communication device comprising:

a memory for storing the at least one voice command; and

15 a control complex coupled to the memory, wherein the control complex associates the at least one voice command with one of a plurality of numeric digits.

8. The system, as set forth in claim 7, wherein the communication device and the interface module communicate over a wireless link.

20 9. The system, as set forth in claim 7, wherein the communication device and the interface module communicate via a physical connection that couples the interface module to a port on the communication device.

10. The system, as set forth in claim 7, comprising an antenna module within the vehicle coupled to the interface module and adapted to be used by the communication device to communicate with an external device.

5 11. The system, as set forth in claim 7, comprising a speaker coupled to the interface module in the vehicle and adapted for use by the communication device to generate audio.

12. A system, comprising:  
a vehicle;

10 a communication system disposed in the vehicle, the communication system comprising:

an interface module coupled to a microphone for receiving a plurality of verbal commands, wherein at least one of the plurality of verbal commands is one of an alphabetic character and a symbolic character;

15 a first communication device in communication with the interface module, the first communication device comprising:

a memory for storing the plurality of verbal commands; and

a control complex coupled to the memory, wherein the control complex associates the at least one of the plurality of verbal commands with one of a plurality of numeric digits; and

20 a second communication device adapted to communicate with the first communication device via a network.

13. The system, as set forth in claim 12, wherein the network comprises a satellite  
25 link between the first communication device and the second communication device.

14. The system, as set forth in claim 12, wherein the network comprises a cellular link between the first communication device and the second communication device.

5 15. The system, as set forth in claim 12, wherein the first communication device utilizes an antenna module coupled to the interface module, wherein the first communication device provides an audio signal to the antenna module to communicate with the second communication device.

10 16. The system, as set forth in claim 12, wherein the interface module communicates with the first communication device via a wireless link.

17. A method of operating a communication device, the method comprising the acts of:

15 entering a voice command into an audio input device;  
comparing the voice command to a stored voice command in memory;  
translating the voice command into an one of a plurality of numeric digits, if the voice command corresponds to the stored voice command and if the stored voice command corresponds to one of a plurality of alphabetic characters.

20 18. The method, as set forth in claim 17, comprising storing a voice command in memory, wherein the voice command associates one of the plurality of numeric digits to one of the plurality of alphabetic characters.

19. The method, as set forth in claim 17, wherein the audio input device is a  
microphone disposed within a vehicle.

20. The method, as set forth in claim 17, wherein the audio input device is a  
microphone within the communication device.

21. The method, as set forth in claim 17, comprising storing the one of the plurality  
of numeric digits in memory.

22. The method, as set forth in claim 17, comprising activating the voice recognition  
mode to receive the voice command.

23. A method of operating a communication device, the method comprising the acts  
of:

storing a first voice command into a memory;  
associating the first voice command to one of a plurality of numeric digits if the first  
voice command is an alphabetic character;  
receiving a second voice command;  
comparing the first voice command to the second voice command; and  
translating the second voice command into one of the plurality of numeric digits if the  
first voice command corresponds to the second voice command.

24. The method, as set forth in claim 23, comprising presenting the one of the  
plurality of numeric digits to a display if the first voice command is similar to the second voice  
command.

25. The method, as set forth in claim 23, comprising coupling an interface module in a vehicle to the communication device.

5 26. The method, as set forth in claim 25, wherein receiving the second voice command comprises utilizing a microphone coupled to the interface module and disposed within the vehicle.

10 27. A method of manufacturing a communication device comprising the acts of:  
providing a control module having a processor and a memory for storing a plurality of voice commands;  
coupling a microphone to the control module for entering audio;  
coupling a display to the control module for presenting information; and  
configuring an program within the memory to:  
15 receive audio from the microphone; and  
translate the audio into a numeric digit if the audio is similar to a stored voice command, wherein the voice command is one of a plurality of alphabetic characters.

20 28. The method, as set forth in claim 27, comprises coupling a transceiver module to the control module.

25 29. The method, as set forth in claim 27, comprises coupling a port to the control module.

30. The method, as set forth in claim 29, comprises configuring the program to communicate with an interface module within a vehicle through the port.

31. The method, as set forth in claim 29, comprises configuring the program to communicate with a microphone external to communication device.

5